

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 are amended. Figures 6, 7, and 8 are amended. No new matter is presented. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is submitted that claims 1-7 recite patentable subject matter.

The drawings are objected to for containing references characters that are not mentioned in the description. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that D1 in figures 6, 7, and 8 is not mentioned in the specification. Figures 6, 7, and 8 are amended to overcome the cited objection. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Claim 2 is objected to for containing informalities. Claim 2 is amended to overcome the cited objections. In view of these amendments, Applicants request the withdrawal of the objection of claim 2

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 5,263,093). The Examiner takes the position that Nakamura teaches or suggests all the features recited in claims 1-7. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nakamura discloses a microphone device that is positioned close to the mouth of an operator. The microphone device is mounted on an arm which is supported on one side of a helmet and extends toward the front thereof to have the microphone device positioned close to a mouth of a message transmitting operator wearing the helmet. A casing of the microphone device is constituted with a front casing and a back casing formed with a pair of symmetrically opposed halves.

It is respectfully submitted that Nakamura fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 1-7. It is respectfully submitted that Nakamura fails to teach or suggest a first sound inlet in at least one a first opening arranged substantially parallel to and facing the first surface of the first diaphragm, wherein the first sound inlet lies in front of the first

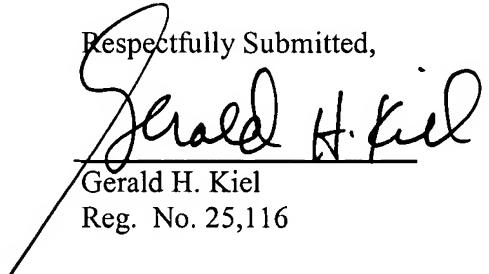
diaphragm with respect to a main sound direction, and the second sound inlet lies behind the first diaphragm with respect to the main sound direction.

The Examiner indicates that Nakamura discloses a first sound inlet, however, Nakamura does not teach or suggest a first sound inlet in at least one first opening arranged substantially parallel to and facing the first surface of the first diaphragm. In contrast, Figure 1 of Nakamura does not illustrate the first sound inlet as provided in the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, the first sound inlet is provided with a damping element DE which is mounted directly in the sound inlet itself. (See Paragraph 0051]. Thus, it is submitted that Nakamura does not provide a first sound inlet as provided in the claimed invention. The sound inlets illustrated in Nakamura are not positioned relative to the diaphragm as in the claimed invention. (See Figure 1 of Nakamura). Therefore, it is submitted that Nakamura fails to teach at least the feature of a first sound inlet in at least one a first opening arranged substantially parallel to and facing the first surface of the first diaphragm, wherein the first sound inlet lies in front of the first diaphragm with respect to a main sound direction, and the second sound inlet lies behind the first diaphragm with respect to the main sound direction. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 are dependent upon claim 1. It is submitted that claims 2-7 recite patentable subject matter for at least the reasons mentioned above. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1-7 all the claims pending in the application, are believed by Applicants to define patentable subject matter and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,


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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figures 6, 7, and 8 as provided in attached replacement sheets 1, 2, and 3.